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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/18/08

SPONSOR Hall LAST UPDATED _____ HB 16

SHORT TITLE UNM Communication Disorders Programs SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Companion to HB 17

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico (UNM)

New Mexico State University (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 16 appropriates \$250.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico to expand student clinical studies and practicum programs for communication disorders in the department of speech and hearing sciences.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

The HED states that a collaborative request from UNM and NMSU for \$600,000 was submitted by NMSU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY09.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a "breach" of the Higher Education Formula. Reasons for this

classification decision are not provided. (LFC Report 07-20, Higher Education Department Review of Selected Research and Public Service Projects, January 12, 2008, Table 4, p74.)

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNM states Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are central to the treatment of such growing problems as autism, learning/reading disabilities, brain injuries, and ageing. There is a national shortage of SLPs, and New Mexico is in a crisis stage: one recent survey found that New Mexico was one of the three states with the greatest shortage. School districts are experiencing significant vacancies. A survey in late September, 2007, showed that the Las Cruces Public Schools were currently advertising 14 vacant positions, the Gasden District 8 vacant positions, and the Albuquerque Public Schools District was listing 21 vacancies. The shortage is equally acute, if not worse, in smaller school districts throughout NM. We are requesting the resources to increase our entering class each year by eight students; this includes additional faculty and tuition and stipend support for some students. This support is essential in order to attract students from rural, reservation, and/or low-income areas who are most likely to return to those critical areas, many of whom will have to forgo other employment to continue their education. Students receiving the financial support to participate in this expanded program will be required to work in a public school setting in a high-need area of New Mexico for 3 years after graduation.

According to NMSU the Communication Disorders Program (Dept. of Special Education/Communication Disorders Department) at New Mexico State University and the Dept. of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of New Mexico are working to address the shortage collaboratively using a two-fold approach that involves 1) expansion of existing, campus-based programs and 2) extension of current programs to distance education.

The two programs are submitting very similar but separate proposals (each for \$250.0), developed in consultation and to be conducted collaboratively. (See Companionship below.)

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMSU states that this request involves a collaborative effort between the New Mexico State University (NMSU) Program in Communication Disorders and the University of New Mexico (UNM) Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences and will require joint administration. This will be particularly necessary for aspects of the program involving learning through distance education. In addition, each student's program of study must be consistent with the accreditation requirements of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association as outlined by the Council on Academic Accreditation. Students must also achieve the appropriate education, knowledge and skills as outlined by the Council for Clinical Certification in Speech-Language Pathology (CFCC) and the New Mexico Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practices Board.

COMPANIONSHIP

House Bill 16 is a companion bill to House Bill 17 - NMSU Communication Disorders Programs which appropriates the NMSU portion of the funding for this collaborative effort.

GH/bb